



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/711,248	09/03/2004	Peng Lee	026018.50278	5247
28172	7590	03/11/2008		
BUTLER, SNOW, O'MARA, STEVENS & CANNADA PLLC 6075 POPLAR AVENUE SUITE 500 MEMPHIS, TN 38119			EXAMINER JAGAN, MIRELLYS	
			ART UNIT 2855	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 03/11/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/711,248	LEE, PENG	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mirells Jagan	2855	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 August 2007.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 3-5 and 8 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,2,6 and 7 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: copy of James et al.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the reference titled “Finding Termites With Thermal Imaging Cameras” by James et al [hereinafter James] in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0146840 to Donskoy et al [hereinafter Donskoy].

James discloses a method comprising:

using a thermal imaging camera to receive a thermal image of a residential structure (house) to detect moisture carried by termites at an at least one site;

wherein said thermal image is received without prior electromagnetic radiation of the residential structure; the structure is heated or cooled (by the termites); and the thermal image is a cold spot (see section 1; section 2, last paragraph, lines 3-5; and section 6, paragraph 1, line 1, paragraph 2, lines 2-3).

James does not disclose positioning at least one detector at said at least one site to nondestructively confirm termite infestation in said at least one site in said structure; or confirming that there is an active termite infestation in the sites by using a microwave motion

detector.

Donskoy discloses a method of reliably detecting the presence of termites in a wooden residential structure by using a microwave motion detector to nondestructively detect movement of the termites in the structure. Donskoy teaches that it is desirable to perform the test on a wood residential structure and on wood poles to test the structural integrity of the wooden structures (see paragraphs 22-24).

Referring to claim 1, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of James by further using a microwave motion detector to detect the presence of termites, as taught by Donskoy, in order to determine if there are termites in the identified site, thus confirming that there is a termite infestation in the site.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are not persuasive.

Regarding applicant's arguments that James is undated, the date of James is 8/1/02. Another copy of James is attached (see last page of James).

Applicant's arguments that James fails to disclose looking for cold spots are not persuasive since James explicitly discloses looking for cold spots in section 2, paragraph 1, lines 3-4 ("A color image shows hot spots as red or yellow and cold spots as blue or purple and these heat patterns indicate termite infestations." [emphasis added]); and section 6, paragraph 2, lines

2-3 ("Termites also control their thermal environment by building moist mud structures, which can show up on thermal imaging equipment as cool spots in a wall cavity.")

With respect to applicant's arguments against the references individually, i.e., that James fails to disclose using a secondary confirmation, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). In this case, the claims were rejected over James in view of Donskoy, not James alone.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mirells Jagan whose telephone number is (571) 272-2247. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 12PM to 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Lefkowitz can be reached on (571) 272-2180. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Gail Verbitsky/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2855

MJ
February 27, 2008